



## Department of Engineering Physics

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

news for alumni • fall 2020

### From our chair

When I became the chair of the department just over a year ago, I never could have expected the year that would follow, one marked by a lingering global pandemic and urgent calls to address systemic racism. In 20 years as a faculty member, I have never seen our campus respond so promptly and with such purpose as I have to these two issues. As much as these topics have dominated so many stories since this spring, there are many other things to share about the department.



[Visit our website to read my full chair's message.](#)

On, Wisconsin!

Paul Wilson,

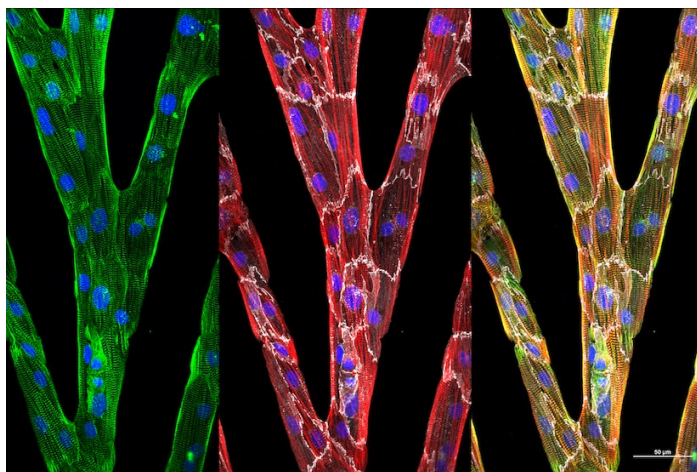
*Department Chair and Grainger Professor of Nuclear Engineering*

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### Quality cardiomyocytes

Professor Wendy Crone created a powerful tool to help assess the quality of heart muscle cells generated from stem cells.

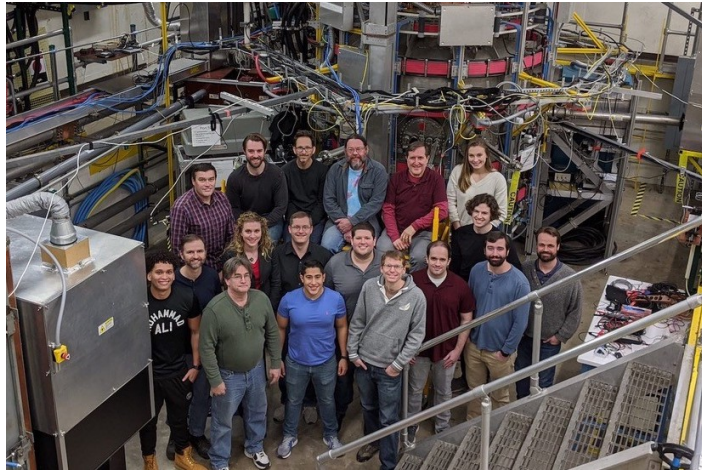
[Read more](#)



## Igniting fusion

With \$7.9 million in new DOE funding, the Pegasus-III experiment will provide a dedicated U.S. platform to study innovative plasma startup techniques.

[Read more](#)



## Investment with impact

A historic \$32 million commitment from The Grainger Foundation of Lake Forest, Illinois, will propel the College of Engineering on its growth trajectory. The pledge establishes the Grainger Dean of the College of Engineering, and funds a major undergraduate scholarship program and seven professorships.

[Read more](#)



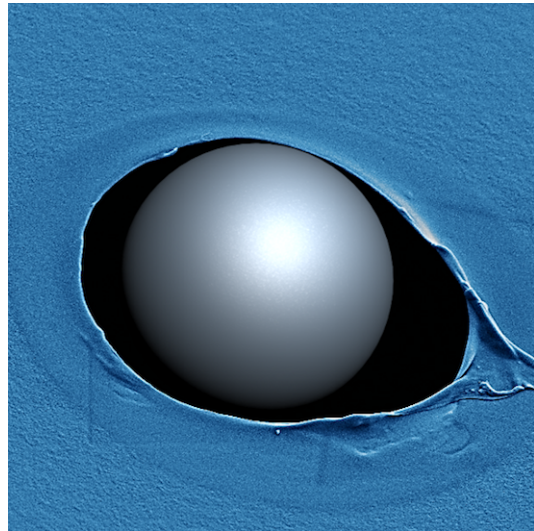
## More headlines

- Assistant Professor Stephanie Diem is [advancing fusion science](#) through plasma physics experiments.
- UW-Madison engineers received \$4.8 million to lead [DOE Nuclear Energy University Program](#) research projects.
- Harvey D. Spangler Assistant Professor Jacob Notbohm was awarded the Society for Experimental Mechanics' prestigious [Springer/Nature Young Investigator Lecture](#).
- Assistant Professor Benedikt Geiger landed a [DOE Early Career Award](#) to investigate impurity transport in stellarators.

- Professor Kumar Sridharan was named a [fellow of the American Nuclear Society](#).
- Alum Ryley Karl (BSEM '08) is working with his two brothers to create a [two-seat prop plane called DarkAero 1](#), which is poised to disrupt the kit aircraft industry.
- As students, Greg Johnson and Ben Maier conducted research on cold-spray deposition with Professor Kumar Sridharan that [led to a patent](#)—and technology that could benefit the nuclear industry.



PhD students Katie Mummah and Kalin Kiesling [received graduate scholarships](#) from the American Nuclear Society.



Assistant Professor Ramathasan Thevamaran [fabricated a rubbery nanomaterial](#) that outperforms all others in blocking speeding projectiles.

